



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 19, 2000

H.R. 1237

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit grants for the national estuary program to be used for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, to reauthorize appropriations to carry out the program, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on April 11, 2000*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1237 would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million annually over the 2000-2004 period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Estuary Program (NEP). Under the bill, the agency would make additional grants to states for the purpose of developing and implementing long-term management plans for various estuaries that are not currently covered under the NEP. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would increase discretionary spending by \$157 million over the 2000-2005 period.

This bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1237 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the pattern of past appropriations for EPA activities associated with the NEP. The estimated impact of H.R. 1237 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | | |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | | |
| NEP Spending Under Current Law ^a | | | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Estimated Outlays | 14 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Proposed Changes | | | | | | |
| Authorization Level | 36 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| Estimated Outlays | 2 | 8 | 21 | 36 | 45 | 45 |
| NEP Spending Under H.R. 1237 | | | | | | |
| NEP Authorization Level | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| Estimated Outlays | 16 | 15 | 24 | 37 | 45 | 45 |

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the National Estuary Program.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1237 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Implementing this bill would benefit state and local governments by allowing jurisdictions to use federal grants made under the National Estuary Program for implementing conservation and management plans. Any costs to match federal grant funds would be incurred voluntarily.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On October 13, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 835, the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on September 29, 1999. In contrast to H. R. 1237, S. 835 would increase the authorization of appropriations for the NEP by \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2000 and 2001. In addition, S. 835, unlike H.R. 1237, would authorize additional appropriations for the Corps of Engineers to establish an Estuary Habitat Restoration Collaborative Council.

In addition, on March 27, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1775, the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 16, 2000. H.R. 1775 would authorize appropriations for the Corps of Engineers to establish an Estuary Habitat Restoration Council and for other agencies, including EPA, to conduct various studies related to estuary restoration. Differences between the two estimates are the result of differences in the two bills.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Victoria Heid Hall

Impact on the Private Sector: Jean Wooster

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis